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# ANNUAL REPORT

\_\_OF THE\_\_

TOWN COUNCIL OF

THE TOWN OF

BLOOMFIELD, N. J.



1956

# YOUR O PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Bloomfield Free Public Library Bloomfield, New Jersey

# ANNUAL REPORT

\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_

TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF
BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

DONALD H. SCOTT MAYOR

First Ward JOSEPH V. RUSSOMAN ARTHUR L. SCHMIDT

Second Ward JOSEPH D. LINTOTT HARRY V. FISHER

Third Ward WALTER S. STEINMANN JACK J. SORIANO

#### ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF

# MAYOR DONALD H. SCOTT TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

#### **JANUARY 1, 1957**

#### INTRODUCTION

The year of 1956 has been a year of change in the government of Bloomfield. I am thoroughly convinced that it has been beneficial change. It has been said that, "Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

-Richard Hooker (Samuel Johnson, Preface to Dictionary)

The transition to new governmental procedures under our modified charter has been smooth and without a great deal of fan-fare although it has required considerable thought, planning and active implementation. This smooth transition was made possible through the intelligent cooperation and devoted effort of all concerned—the Town Council, the Administrator, all department heads, and employees. We are grateful for this cooperation.

Early in 1956, temporary procedures were set into motion to promptly implement the provisions of our modified charter. Meanwhile, a great deal of study and effort on the part of your governing body went into drafting an administrative code and selecting a suitable person to fill the position of Town Administrator.

On April 17, 1956, at the primary election, the first Councilman-At-Large nominations were made under this new provision of our charter modification. These three Councilmen-At-Large positions were filled at these general election on November 6, 1956.

On July 2, 1956, the Town Council adopted by ordinance an administrative code which sets up the administrative provisions of the modified charter, establishing the organiation structure and administrative procedures to be followed.

After several months of nation-wide recruiting, careful study of applications, screening, interviewing and field inves-

tigation, Bloomfield's first Town Administrator was selected by your governing body. Our Administrator took office on July 16, 1956. On this date, also, the Administrative code became effective and the organizational structure provided therein was put into operation.

I am confident that these modifications to our governmental structure will be of lasting benefit to our community and I feel that all officials and citizens who played a part in the planning and implementation of the change can feel justifiable pride in this civic accomplishment, for it was a change made through community initiative and not through compulsion. My commendations to the members of the governing body for their diligent application to the large job of setting into motion the charter modifications.

#### PLANNING

Our Planning Board continues to be occupied with residential development activity as well as over-all community planning. Several months ago the Community Planning Associates, Inc. were engaged for a town-wide study of all phases of our zoning, and to recommend to the Planning Board and Town Council a draft of a revised zoning ordinance for our consideration. This study is progressing; the consultant's recommendations and suggested land use and zoning maps are expected to be available to the Planning Board early in 1957.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

During 1956 many public works improvements have been made, including reconstruction of streets, street widening, curbing, and extensions of our water mains, sewer lines and signal system into new developments. Some of these improvements have been to existing facilities and include reconstruction of existing street pavements, street widening, and curbing. New Housing developments required the extensions of our existing water, sewer and signal systems. These extensions during 1956 amounted to 1½ miles of new sewer lines and more than 1½ miles of new streets paved and curbed.

The extension of the Morris Canal Highway from Hoover Avenue to Center Street has been completed and in use for several months.

#### BUILDING

Building in Bloomfield continues to be active. During the past year, building permits were issued for 80 dwelling units, 68 of which were single-family units. It is encouraging to note, also, that building programs indicate growth in our churches and private education institutions

#### RECREATION

Our recreation program and facilities continue to expand, providing organized leisure—time activity for all ages.

Hoover Playground, which had been used for Veterans' Emergency Housing Units, has been cleared of these units and returned to the jurisdiction of the Recreation Commission.

During 1956, plans were completed for the new Civic Center to replace the old Community House. Bids were received and contracts awarded for the construction of this building and I trust this new facility will be ready for use toward the end of 1957.

#### SCHOOLS

The schools rehabilitation and new building program proceeds rather close to an ambitious time-table originally established.

The rehabilitation of older school buildings is gradually being accomplished. Plans for a new elementary school have been completed and contracts awarded for its construction.

Architects were appointed for the new junior high school, preliminary plans have been submitted and are being studied by the Board of Education and its staff. The present time-table calls for planning to be completed and construction bids to be received by August 1957, with construction to be completed during the summer of 1959.

Preliminary drawings are being made for the combination auditorium-gymnasiums for Watsessing, Berkeley, Center, Erookside and Franklin Schools. With these additions and completion of the rehabilitation program, our school plant facilities should be modern and adequate for a long time to come.

#### PERSONNEL

At the request of the Town Council, a classification and salary survey was conducted by the New Jersey Department of Civil Service.

After many months of study of this survey, the governing body adopted an ordinance establishing salary ranges and permissive increments for various municipal positions.

I have continually urged that the Town Council be vested with the jurisdiction to fix salaries of members of the Police and Fire Departments to the same extent as the governing body is authorized to fix salaries and wages of all other town employees.

Since 1919, the referendum procedure has been used for establishing salaries of members of our uniformed departments. This has been a cumbersome procedure and has made it difficult to provide good personnel administration. At the 1956 General Election, this question was presented to the electorate who voted to vest this jurisdiction in the governing body. I feel that this is an important step toward a properly integrated personnel administration program. On December 17, 1956, the Council adopted an ordinance providing a new salary range for these departments, to be effective in 1957.

#### FINANCE

Tax collections continued high during 1956, with a collection rate of 97.60%.

A new feature of our Administrative Code is the provision of a Financial Advisory Board to advise the Town Council and the Director of Finance on fiscal and investment matters. This Board consists of five persons with experience and training in the finance field, and has been active since August of this past year. It promises to be a valuable addition to our governmental organization.

#### HEALTH

On May first of the past year, our Health Department's Chest X-Ray Clinic was opened on the grade floor of the Municipal Building. Originally, the X-ray machine in our clinic was made available to us on a long-term loan basis by the Essex County T. B. League. However, the League was prompted to make an outright gift of the machine because of the excellence of our clinic facilities and a demonstrated efficiency and sincere interest in chest X-ray projects.

These results are potent evidence of the accomplishments attained by cooperative community action. We are happy to relate that THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORTED CASE of POLIOMYELITIS in Bloomfield during the past calendar year.

#### LIBRARY

There was accomplished during the past year, a rehabilitation of our Library Building. Air conditioning, improved lighting, acoustical ceilings and transformation of the little-used auditorium into a new Young People's Room, make possible the use of the entire building for library purposes—giving the effect of an enlarged library building with expanded facilities.

#### "TOMORROW TO FRESH WOODS, AND PASTURES NEW"\*

I have attempted herein to report briefly on the highlights of the past year . . . where do we go from here? Although we might feel some pride in recent accomplishments in our community, we must not be too satisfied—for we must continually seek better, more efficient and more economcial methods of rendering community service. This we shall continue to do.

Our citizens have invested millions of dollars in municipal plant facilities. At the present time most of these facilities have been or are in the process of being brought up to date. I recommend that, in the not-too-distant future, consideration be given to replacing our Public Works Maintenance Building and Firehouse No. 2 on Orange Street. When this is accomplished, our municipal plant facilities should be efficiently adequate for a long time to come so long as normal maintenance is provided year by year.

Efforts are continuing to obtain permission from the Essex County Park Commission for the construction of a Municipal Plaza extension through Watsessing Park in order to help alleviate the traffic bottleneck in this area. Our engineer's plan for this project has received warm reception and \* Milton, "Lycidas"

we are becoming more hopeful that this improvement may be accomplished.

We are seriously concerned with the heavy accident rate at Bloomfield Avenue and Garden State Parkway. A new turn-around has been constructed under the viaduct and traffic signal controls have been modified in an attempt to alleviate this hazardous condition. The Town Council, Safety Council and others have appealed for relief to the New Jersey Highway Authority, for it appears that drastic steps not within our jurisdiction are called for. Our Safety Council has labored long and hard to obtain a workable solution to this hazardous situation; the Council's interest and efforts are commendable.

I plan to call a conference of all interested parties and their advisors during the coming month, in an attempt to work out this difficult problem. New Jersey Highway Authority officials have indicated a willingness to attend this conference in a spirit of mutual cooperation, to find a solution.

These and other matters will require our attention in the months ahead. Vision and imagination are important in finding areas for improvement—to stay abreast of the times. Courage and diligent effort are needed to transform ideas into accomplishments. I am confident that it is with the concurrence of your full governing body, when I pledge that we shall continue to seek improvements in our municipal administration, even in areas where perhaps it appears little improvement can be made.

#### CONCLUSION

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Town Council for their splendid cooperation in the past and I trust that this cooperation shall continue toward the goal of providing good government for our citizens.

On behalf of the Town Council, may I extend sincere thanks to our staff and employees for their loyal devotion to their tasks, to our many citizens who serve without remuneration on our various boards, committees and commissions, and to the newspaper representatives who do a good job of presenting to the public the Bloomfield Government story. Yes, it has been a year of change in Bloomfield's Government, and in the words of the poet "Lowell:"

"New times demand new measures and new men; The world advances, and in time outgrows The laws that in our father's day were best; and, doubtless, after us, some purer scheme Will be shaped out by wiser men than we."

-J. R. Lowell, "A Glance Behind The Curtain."

May I wish for all—a peaceful new year full of God's rich blessings.

DONALD H. SCOTT, Mayor

Town of Bloomfield, N. J.

January 1, 1957

DHS:dmc

#### COMBINED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — DECEMBER 31, 1956

ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
Cash Investments State Road Allotments Receivable Receivables with Full Reserves: Taxes Receivable Tax Title Liens and Assessment Liens Property Acquired by Tax Title Lien Liquidation Revenue Accounts Receivable Consumer Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,962,304.46 1,014,054.23 77,235.62 576,545.34 25,607.01 44,600.00 9,237.25 35,378.25	\$ 1,956,621.92 915,534.00 86,475.02 550,595.04 25,521.49 58,400.00 6,638.32 48,929.59
Assessments Receivable Prospective Assessments — Funded Other Accounts Receivable Inventory Fixed Capital Fixed Capital Authorized and Uncompleted Deferred Charges	52,218.01 294,000.00 1,981.94 33,209.35 2,530,436.61 303,191.82 5,972,179.51	30,939.96 3,974.90 40,324.42 2,453,655.83 371,111.82 5,622,365.82
	\$12,932,179.40	\$12,171,088.13 ————————————————————————————————————

# COMBINED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — DECEMBER 31, 1956 (Continued)

Balance Dec. 31, 1956	LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SURPLUS
	Liabilities:
\$ 2,195,000.00	Serial Bonds — School
1,754,000.00	Serial Bonds — General Serial Bonds — Assessment Bond Antiquation Notes
294,000.00	Bond Anticipation Notes
1,338,452.17	Bond Anticipation Notes Appropriation Reserves
347.097.35	Appropriation Reserves Accounts Payable
55,111.56	Contracts Payable
1,471.40	Improvement Authorizations Capital Improvement Fund
1,346,067.96	Capital Improvement Fund
71,435.42	Water Capital Outlay
179,166.96	Water Capital Outlay Accrued Interest on Bonds Deposit Aggregates
958.00	Deposit Accounts
4,651.70	Prepair Licenses, Taxes and Water Rents
4,840.15	Unallocated Cash
361.38	Unallocated Cash Tax and Other Overnayments
10,092.99	Tax and Other Overpayments  Reserve for Road Construction or Reconstruction with State Aid  Reserve Funds
87,509.82	Reserve Funds
157,361.52	Reserve Funds
7,847,578.38	
746 341 08	Reserve for Receivables
	reserve for Amortization
	Surplus
\$12,932,179.40	
	Dec. 31, 1956  \$ 2,195,000.00 1,754,000.00 294,000.00 1,338,452.17 347.097.35 55,111.56 1,471.40 1,346,067.96 71,435.42 179,166.96 958.00 4,651.70 4,840.15 361.38 10,092.99 87,509.82 157,361.52  7,847,578.38 746,341.08 278,600.00 1,955,307.94 2,104,352.00

11

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — CURRENT ACCOUNT

ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
Cash — Change Funds — Cash — Petty Cash Funds — Investments — Savings and Loan Associations — Investments — U. S. Treasury Bonds and Bills — State Road Aid Allotments Receivable — Cash	$\begin{array}{c} \$ \ 1,225,472.40 \\ 600.00 \\ 100.00 \\ 30,000.00 \\ 514,158.00 \\ 77,235.62 \end{array}$	\$ 1,206,542.96 600.00 100.00 613,767.00 86,475.02
	1,847,566.02	1,907,484.98
Receivables with Full Reserves:  Delinquent Taxes Receivable  Tax Title Liens Receivable  Property Acquired by Tax Title Lien Liquidation  Revenue Accounts Receivable	$\begin{array}{c} 576,545.34\\ 21,490.77\\ 44,600.00\\ 9,237.25\\ \hline 651,873.36\end{array}$	550,595.04 21,405.25 58,400.00 6,638.32 637,038.61
Deferred Charges: Emergency Authorizations	\$ 2,499,439.38	\$ 2,587,496.39

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — CURRENT ACCOUNT — Continued

	LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SURPLUS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
Lia	Appropriation Reserves Reserve for Road Construction and Reconstruction or Repairs and Maintenance with State Aid Accounts Payable Contracts Payable Deposits on Sale of Real Estate Cash Liabilities for Prepaid Taxes Cash Liabilities for Prepaid Licenses Tax Overpayments Unallocated Receipts Insurance Claims Allocated Funds Fire Maintenance Building Due State of New Jersey Hotel Licenses Due Capital Account	\$ 186,092.01 87,509.82 5,501.63 1,471.40 1,956.70 1,836.50 10,092.99 316.69 103.93 824.00	\$ 152,045.17 107,871.38 5,806.54 1,471.40 200.00 1,119.86 1,643.00 7,519.41 275.84 103.93 824.00 25.00 1,800.00
Res	serve for Receivables serve for Change and Petty Cash Funds cplus Revenue	295,705.67 651,873.36 1,551,860.35 2,203,733.71	280,705.53 637,038.61 700.00 1,669,052.25 2,306,790.86
		\$ 2,499,439.38	\$ 2,587,496.39

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — TRUST ACCOUNT

	ASSETS	De	Balance ec. 31, 1956	Balance c. 31, 1955
14	Assessment Account Cash Assessments Receivable Assessment Liens Assessment Liens Assessment Liens Interest and Costs Prospective Assessments Funded	\$	69,459.26 52,218.01 2,837.76 1,278.48 294,000.00 419,793.51	\$ 58,253.97 30,797.32 2,729.54 1,278.48 93,059.31
	Dog License Fund Account Cash		4,716.48	4,956.66
	Other Funds Account Special Trust Account		1,400.00	300.00
		\$	425,909.99	\$ 98,315.97

## LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SURPLUS

	Assessment Account Assessment Serial Bonds Bond Anticipation Notes Due Water Utility Account Reserve for Assessments and Liens Reserve for Assessment Lien Interest and Costs Assessments Not Yet Confirmed Collected Trust Surplus	\$	294,000.00 32,435.17 250.86 22,619.70 1,278.48 877.36 68,331.94	\$	33,526.86 1,278.48 58,253.97
Jairel.		1	419,793.51		93,059.31
15	Dog License Fund Account Reserve for Dog Fund Expenditures		4,716.48		4,956.66
	Other Funds Account Reserve for Special Trust Fund Premium Received at Tax Sale		800.00 600.00		300.00
		_	1,400.00		300.00
		-	W. The state of th	**************************************	
		\$	425,909.99	\$	98,315.97

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
16	General Capital: Cash Accounts Receivable — State of New Jersey Deferred Charges to Future Taxation — Bonded Not Bonded Due from Current Account	Dec. 31, 1956  \$ 92,987.07 1,038.29  \$ 3,408,000.00 2,564,179.51  6,066,204.87  5  12,841.82 109,370.55 12,841.82 135,054.19	\$ 95,887.51 1,038.29 3,668,000.00 1,901,393.02 1,800.00
		6,066,204.87	5,668,118.82
	Emergency Housing Capital: Cash Fixed Capital Fixed Capital Uncompleted	109,370.55	12,841.82 109,370.55 12,841.82
		135,054.19	135,054.19
		\$ 6,201,259.06	\$ 5,803,173.01

### LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SURPLUS

(	General Capital:		
	Serial Bonds — School	\$ 2,195,000.00 1,213,000.00 141,488.00 1,164,529.00 106,186.92 1,183,460.79 44,523.61 110.14 1,096.45 1,038.29 15,771.67	$\begin{array}{c} \$ \ 2,350.000.00 \\ 1,318,000.00 \\ 400,000.00 \\ 280,000.00 \\ \hline \\ 27,108.79 \\ 1,259,104.09 \\ 28,753.28 \\ 110.14 \\ 2,220.80 \\ 1,038.29 \\ 1,783.43 \\ \end{array}$
1	Capital Sulpius	6,066,204.87	5,668,118.82
Ι	Emergency Housing Capital: Improvement Authorization — Permanently Funded Reserve for Amortization	12,841.82 122,212.37	12,841.82 122,212.37
		135,054.19	135,054.19
		\$ 6,201,259.06	\$ 5,803,173.01

There were bonds and notes authorized but not issued on December 31, 1956 of \$504,785.74. There were school bonds and promissory notes authorized but not issued on December 31, 1956 of \$700,000.00.

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — WATER UTILITY ACCOUNT

Operating Section:  ASSETS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
Cash	\$ 324,234.31 200.00 397,641.92	\$ 334,293.65 200.00 298,767.00
	722,076.23	633,260.65
Receivables and Inventory with Full Reserves: Consumer Accounts Receivable Water Assessments Receivable	35,378.25	48,929.59 142.64
Water Assessment Liens Accounts Receivable — Fire Hydrant Damage Accounts Receivable — House Service Connection Inventory Water Rents Receivable — Veterans' Housing	310.71 381.90 33,209.35 251.04	108.22 310.71 792.90 40,324.42 33.00
	69,531.25	90,641.48
Total of Operating Section	791,607.48	723,902.13
Capital Section: Cash Investments Fixed Capital Fixed Capital Authorized and Uncompleted	99,363.39 99,254.31 2,421,066.06 290,350.00	151,177.55 2,344,285.28 358,270.00
Total of Capital Section	2,910,033.76	2,853,732.83
	\$ 3,701,641.24	\$ 3,577,634.96

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — WATER UTILITY ACCOUNT — Continued

LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND SURPLUS	Balance Dec. 31, 1956	Balance Dec. 31, 1955
Operating Section:  Liabilities:  Appropriation Reserves  Accounts Payable  Accrued Interest on Bonds  Inventory Revolving Fund  Unallocated Receipts  Meter Deposits  Water Account Deposits  House Connection Deposits  Prepaid Water Rents	$958.00 \\ 44,749.58 \\ 44.69 \\ 1,150.00 \\ 140.00$	\$ 90,924.33 1,028.85 44,749.58 43.64 1,100.00 140.00 3,361.70 66.81 141,414.91
Reserve for Receivables and Inventory Reserve for Change Fund Operating Surplus	69,531.25 468,388.04	90,641.48 200.00 491,645.74
	537,919.29	582,487.22
Total Operating Section	791,607.48	723,902.13

20	Capital Section: Serial Bonds Improvement Authorizations — Permanently Funded Improvement Authorizations — Not Permanently Funded Reserves for:  Water Capital Outlay Water Capital Improvement Fund Replacements and Extensions Retained Percentages on Contracts Amortization Deferred Amortization  Total Capital Section	541,000.00 20,034.09 23,544.34 179,166.96 26,911.81 3,165.73 4,515.26 1,833,095.57 278,600.00	581,000.00 39,261.72 23,544.34 113,027.74 26,911.81 3,165.73 3,986.70 1,716,314.79 346,520.00 2,853,732.83
		\$ 3.701,641.24	s 3,577,634.96

There were bonds and notes authorized but not issued on December 31, 1956 of \$58,720.49.

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — PUBLIC ASS				
ASSETS		Balance Dec. 31, 1956		Balance c. 31, 1955
Cash	\$	67,556.05	\$	62,414.89
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES Reserve to Pay Emergency Relief	\$	67,556.05	\$	62,414.89
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — SPECIAL	POOR	ACCOUNT		
ASSETS		Balance . 31, 1956		Balance c. 31, 1955
Cash	s	394.99 3,000.00	\$	394.99 3,000.00
	\$	3,394.99	\$	3,394.9
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES Reserve for Special Poor Account	\$	3,394.99	\$	3,394.9
BALANCE SHEET - PAYROLL ACC	COUNT			
ASSETS				c. 31, 1956 Balance
Cash			\$	32,978.69
Payroll Fund			\$	32,978.69

## BALANCE SHEET - BOND AND INTEREST ACCOUNT

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 1956 Balance	
Cash	\$ 19,992.50	
Interest Payable Bonds Payable	\$ 5,992.50 14,000.00	
	\$ 19,992.50	

# COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET — EMERGENCY HOUSING MUNICIPALLY OWNED

Dwelling Rents Receivable		ASSETS	Balance :. 31, 1956	De	Balance c. 31, 1955
LIABILITIES  Accounts Payable \$ 300.00 Reserve for Administrative Expense 13.61 Reserve for Security Deposits 150.00 Reserve for Fire Damage 2,071.61 Housing Authority Loan from Town of Bloomfield 4,056.38 Reserve for Repairs, Maintenance and Capital Improvements 12,528.90 Reserve for Receivables 2,726.47 Net Profit 13,712.36	0	Dwelling Rents Receivable	\$	\$	32,773.99 2,516.75 209.72 58.87
Accounts Payable \$ 300.00 Reserve for Administrative Expense 13.61 Reserve for Security Deposits 150.00 Reserve for Fire Damage 2,071.61 Housing Authority Loan from Town of Bloomfield 4,056.38 Reserve for Repairs, Maintenance and Capital Improvements 12,528.90 Reserve for Receivables 2,726.47 Net Profit 313,712.36			\$ 0	\$	35,559.33
\$ 0 \$ 35,559.33		Accounts Payable Reserve for Administrative Expense Reserve for Security Deposits Reserve for Fire Damage Housing Authority Loan from Town of Bloomfield Reserve for Repairs, Maintenance and Capital Improvements Reserve for Receivables	\$	\$	13.61 $150.00$ $2,071.61$ $4,056.38$ $12,528.90$ $2,726.47$ $13,712.36$
			\$ 0	\$	35,559.33